

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /081 W

-----074963 101748Z /11

O 101610Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1691

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. PRIME MINISTER BOTHA ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE FORCE GENERAL MALAN VISITED WINDHOEK OVER THE WEEKEND. THE VISIT WAS DESCRIBED AS PART OF ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM WINDHOEK ON JULY 9, BOTHA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION IN HIS TALKS THAT THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WAS GOING WELL* BOTHA SAID HE HAD FULLY INFORMED THE AG ABOUT THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS HE HAD HAD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTACT GROUP. EARLIER BOTHA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE SAG HAD ACCEPTED THE WESTERN PROPOSALS IN THEIR "FINAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFINITIVE FORM" AND THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD CONSIDER AMENDMENTS.

2. BOTHA, HOWEVER, SKIRTED A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS HAD ASKED THE SAG TO RECONSIDER ANY PART OF THE PROPOSAL. "THIS IS A MATTER I WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE AG" THE MINISTER REPORTEDLY REPLIED.

3. MEANWHILE, THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THE DEPARTURE OF THE SWAPO GROUP FROM WINDHOEK INCLUDING THOSE RELEASED FROM DETENTION BY THE AG TO ATTEND THE LUANDA MEETING. THE CITIZEN, JULY 10, REPORTED THAT THE US EMBASSY " WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE ORGANIZED TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SWAPO DELEGATION." FLEUR DE VILLIERS IN THE SUNDAY TIMES, JULY 9, WRITING FROM WINDHOEK, SAID THAT THE RELEASE OF THE SWAPO DETAINEES WAS SEEN AS A POSITIVE ACT BY THE SAG WHICH COULD CREATE A HELPFUL CLIMATE IN LUANDA.

5. DE VILLIERS ALSO REPORTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANDREAS SHIPANGA WOULD SEE TOIVO ON ROBBEN ISLAND LATER THIS MONTH. SHE QUOTED THE AG AS SAYING THAT SUCH A MEETING COULD "POSSIBLY BE ARRANGED."

5. THE AG IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STEPS TO REMOVE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE TERRITORY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NEXT WEEK A NEW MULTIRACIAL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WILL REPLACE THE CORPORATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AN OFF-SHOOT OF THE OLD BANTU INVESTMENT CORPORATION. STEYN ALSO TOLD DE VILLIERS THAT HE HOPED THAT "BLACK AND BROWN" EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD RECEIVE THEIR FIRST "EQUAL PAY" (WITH WHITES) SALARIES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

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